

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

DATE: August 26, 2004

CALLED TO ORDER: 3:04 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 4:54 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Lonnell Conley, Chairman
James Bradford
Scott Keller
Dane Mahern
Angela Mansfield
Mary Moriarty Adams
Mike Speedy

ABSENT MEMBERS

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 506, 2004 - reappoints Robert S. Daly to the Air Pollution Control Board

"Do Pass"

Vote: 5-0

BUDGET HEARING

Policy and Planning
Operations
Solid Waste
Maintenance Services

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Public Works Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, August 26, 2004. Chairman Lonnell Conley called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. with the following members present: Scott Keller, Dane Mahern, and Mike Speedy. James Bradford, Angela Mansfield, and Mary Moriarty Adams arrived shortly thereafter. Councillor Bob Cockrum was also in attendance.

PROPOSAL NO. 506, 2004 - reappoints Robert S. Daly to the Air Pollution Control Board

Chairman Conley invited Dr. Daly to talk about his experience on the board and share with the Committee his reasons for wanting to serve. Dr. Daly stated that he is a southside lung specialty physician. He said that he has served on the Air Pollution Control Board since 1980, serving as chair since 1986. He said that in the time that he has served on the board, the City has gone from being non-compliant in the criteria pollutants, to being completely compliant as of 2000. As luck would have it, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has lowered the bar and they are in the process of trying to comply with new ozone standards to keep the City in compliance. Dr. Daly said that it has been a very enjoyable and interesting experience for him in his 24 years of serving.

Chairman Conley said that with 24 years of service, and being a lung specialist, he welcomes Dr. Daly's expertise to serve on this board.

Councillor Mahern thanked Dr. Daly for his dedication and commitment. Whenever there is an expert in a field dedicated enough to spend 24 years on a cause, it is commendable.

Councillor Speedy said that he would like to take this opportunity to learn a bit more about the board and what they do, as well as inform the public on the same. He asked if the board deals with the private sector, as well as government entities, and if they mostly deal with federal or local laws. Dr. Daly said that the Air Pollution Control Board is a nine-member board, with each member having a specific designation (attorney, physician, process engineer, solid waste member, etc.), which makes for a very diverse group. He said that the board tries to establish reasonable policy. The Office of Environmental Services (OES) division of the Department of Public Works (DPW) brings the board policy to review and asks if it is reasonable and fits with their expertise and what they know to be true. He said that private industry comes before the board all the time for questions about regulations. The EPA creates federal policy which is mandated by the State, and the State has its policy which is handed down to the City. The City

then works with the regulated community to create an ease of regulation to facilitate business and yet comply with public health issues. It is a very interesting and tiered process. The board also hears appeals of regulations and helps to draft ordinances which come before the Council for review and approval. He said that they deal with other issues with regards to air policy, and help to insure that other policies make sense in terms of air quality, including transportation policies. Councillor Speedy asked if they then deal with whatever vehicles or factories generate that might affect air quality. Dr. Daly said that this is correct. He said that the pollutants are ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, etc. Therefore any activity, such as transportation or street sweeping, which may affect any of these pollutants, is looked at by the board.

[Clerk's Note: Councillor Mansfield arrived at 3:10 p.m.]

Councillor Mahern moved, seconded by Councillor Keller, to send Proposal No. 506, 2004 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Dr. Daly said that the City has given him far more in education about how the City works and how government works than he has given them by serving on this board, and he feels lucky to be able to serve. Chairman Conley said that there is mutual admiration, and the Council appreciates all qualified volunteers who serve on boards to help keep the City safe and sound in many ways.

BUDGET HEARING

Policy and Planning (City Budget Book, pg. 164)

Kumar Menon, Deputy Director, DPW, said that the Policy and Planning Division houses five different sections that help to support the overall mission of DPW and serves as a bridge between Operations and Engineering. He said that the five sections are as follows, with oversight over those areas noted:

- Customer Service
 - 1) Responds to Mayor's Action Center (MAC) requests.
 - 2) Conducts inspections.
 - 3) Oversees township coordinators.
 - 4) Operates a 24-hour dispatch service.
- Environmental Services
 - 1) Household hazardous waste (Tox-Drop program)
 - 2) Air Quality
 - 3) Water Quality
 - 4) Land Quality

- Strategic Planning
 - 1) Policy research, analysis and planning
 - 2) Grants and applications
 - 3) Program development and evaluation
 - 4) Performance measurement
- Mayor's Office of Disability Affairs (MODA)
 - 1) Partners with all City departments
 - 2) ADA (American Disabilities Act) education and training
 - 3) Community outreach
- Public Information Office
 - 1) Media inquiries
 - 2) Public meetings
 - 3) Special events
 - 4) Outreach and education

Mr. Menon introduced Margie Smith-Simmons, who comes to the department from Animal Care and Control, as the new public information officer. He outlined various accomplishments through the efforts of the Policy and Planning Division throughout 2004:

- Improved coordination between DPW and other City and State agencies, with improved response time and feedback to citizens through the Citizens Relationship Management Program, software initiated through the Mayor's Action Center (MAC).
- Adding a third Tox-Drop location on the east side and starting an e-cycling program, collecting over 38,000 pounds of electronics on Earth Day. Dell Computers has given the City a \$10,000 grant to extend the e-cycling program.

Chairman Conley asked if the e-cycling program is held at the Tox-Drop locations. Mr. Menon said that they want to grow the program to provide permanent locations, but this past year the program was just a one-day event and the drop-off site was downtown near the City-County Building on Earth Day. Councillor Mahern said that the program seemed to go well this year and he asked that the Council be made aware of such events in advance so that they can provide more advertisement for the program and get the word out.

Mr. Menon continued with accomplishments of the division for 2004:

- Development of Solid Waste Strategic Plan to improve current services.
- Improved Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) public notification program through television, e-mail, and signage.

- MODA sponsored its first job fair and will host its second in November.
- Increased the Knozone Program with business partnerships and working with surrounding counties.

[Clerk's Note: Councillor Bradford arrived at 3:22 p.m.]

Chairman Conley asked if citizens cooperate on Knozone action days and participate in the activities suggested. Mr. Menon said that many citizens have signed up for the notification program and are very active in participation. Chairman Conley said that the advertisement with the Knozone cartoon character seems very effective.

Mr. Menon stated that some of the initiatives for 2005 include:

- Increasing public outreach and education through brochures, television spots, special events, and a re-design of the website.
- Increasing neighborhood meetings and improving response time and coordination with other agencies.
- Retro-fitting diesel vehicles with catalytic converters to reduce emissions and expanding the Tox-Drop and e-cycling programs.
- Hosting an annual job fair for persons with disabilities, as well as hosting the Mayor's Summit on Accessible Housing this fall to help create more inclusive neighborhoods.

Councillor Mansfield said that her district is fairly well-developed, and therefore there is not a lot of new housing development taking place. She asked how these types of neighborhoods can be brought on board with this idea of creating more inclusive neighborhoods. Mr. Menon said that the engineering division looks at accessibility issues on an on-going basis. James Garrard, director of DPW, stated that the City has a voluntary compliance agreement with the federal government to do curb cuts and install accessible ramps. The plan is to have these in place by 2012 so that the sidewalks do not just drop off and instead allow for wheelchairs. Councillor Mansfield said that in parts of her district, she does not even have sidewalks, and she often sees people in wheelchairs with flashlights in the road or mothers with baby strollers walking in the street. Mr. Garrard said that they have requests for sidewalks, and although they do not do them very often except in new developments, there are some safety issues that warrant that.

Councillor Bradford said that he has been working with Julie Paini, the administrator of Disability Affairs, because the Indiana School for the Blind is in his district. He said that there is only one traffic light that makes a beeping sound in his district, and he does not believe there are many others in the whole County. He said that he can sympathize with Councillor Mansfield because he has seen electric wheelchairs in the median on 86th Street trying to cross the street. Chairman Conley asked about the audible traffic lights and if they are in the experimental stage. Mr. Garrard said that there seems to be some disagreement as to whether or not these lights are actually effective or not, even

among the disabled community. He said that they are trying to be selective to find where they will be most effective. Chairman Conley asked how Councillor Bradford has found them as far as effectiveness. Councillor Bradford said that there are not many of them, maybe two or three in the entire County. He said that there is some disagreement even among the blind community that by relying on that beeping sound, they may give up their instinct and become too relaxed and therefore put themselves in danger. He said that more cities, like Boston and Canada, are going to these types of signals, but there is a fine line between what the State requires and what the City would need. He said that some of the crosswalks have drain separations that would cause a blind woman in heels who cannot see them to run the risk of being hurt. Mr. Garrard said that this is the first phase of those drains and they will look into that. He added that they are also in the first phase of the audible alert signals, and they will take these comments into consideration.

Michael Williams, finance officer for DPW, said that Councillors should have a new page 164 of the budget book, as there was a calculation error in the original. He said that there is a .7% increase in the proposed budget for 2005 from the 2004 budget.

[Clerk's Note: Councillor Moriarty Adams arrived at 3:29 p.m.]

Mr. Williams said that Character 01 shows a decrease of \$89,000; Character 02, a decrease of \$9,000; Character 03 shows a \$480,000 decrease; with Character 04 realizing a \$53,000 decrease. Character 05, which is Internal Charges, shows an increase of \$664,451, which are actually chargebacks. He said that the revenues are expected to be pretty consistent with last year's revenues in all areas, including licenses, charges, intergovernmental, fines and penalties, miscellaneous, and fund balance. He said that there is a franchise agreement called the Chilled Water agreement that has been around for a number of years that pumps cold water throughout downtown buildings. Those buildings that use this service, pay for the use of the rights-of-way.

Councillor Bradford asked if water from the Canal is used for this Chilled Water agreement. Mr. Williams said that he does not believe so. Councillor Speedy said that he believes the water supply comes from reservoir stacks located near the RCA Dome.

Mr. Williams added that there is a drop in Intergovernmental revenues due partly to the calculation of cigarette tax from the State and an EPA grant that is being negotiated for a two-year allotment. He said that the main difference in the 2003 original budget and the 2004 budget, was that this division previously included the public mass transit fund. With this no longer being in the budget, there is a substantial reduction. He said that Character 01 had increases in group insurance, AFSCME (American Federation of State and County Municipal Employees) contracts, and the pension plan, but saw reductions in bi-weekly and weekly salaries, employee assistance, social security, unemployment, and worker's compensation; for an overall net decrease of \$89,000, or

1.5%. He said that the decrease in salaries is due to attrition and being able to hire new people in at lower salaries.

Councillor Mahern asked about Sub-object 120, Overtime, and said that the year-to-date figure and last year's actual numbers are higher than what has been budgeted for 2005. He asked if this is a very realistic number. Mr. Williams said that this overtime is primarily for customer service people, and it is hard to guess how often they will be needed, in light of weather emergencies, but they hope to absorb any costs over the amount budgeted in this object through underspending in other areas in Character 01, if it is needed.

Councillor Mansfield said that recently federal labor laws have changed regarding overtime, and she asked if there has been any analysis as to how these new laws will affect the City budget. Barbara Lawrence, City Controller, said that there has been no analysis, but she does not believe it will affect the budget in a substantial way.

Mr. Williams said that in Character 02, there is a \$9,000 reduction through office and computer supplies and building materials and repair parts, for a 7.5% decrease in that Character. Character 03 realizes increases due to a stormwater permit that is required, some remediation contracts and an increase in postage and mail services. These are offset with reductions in the areas of information technology, legal settlements, insurance premiums, financial consulting, travel and training, copying and printing, temporary employees, building leases, promotional account, and subscriptions. Mr. Williams said that the overall decrease in Character 03 is \$480,000, or 11%.

Councillor Speedy asked why the 2003 actual numbers are \$12.5 million, and the 2004 original and revised budgets, as well as the proposed 2005 budget, are less than half that amount. Mr. Williams said that this is the Character where the public mass transit funds used to be included for a pass-through. Since these funds are no longer included in the budget, it looks like a very large reduction, but in reality is not.

Councillor Mahern referred to Sub-object 341, Advertising, and said that the division has never used anywhere near the amount budgeted, but yet continues to budget a high amount. Mr. Williams said that these are dollars used for public legal notices, and it is hard to guess how much is needed. With development of new programs and growth of existing programs, it would be possible to spend that much if legal notices are needed. Ms. Lawrence said that they monitor these funds closely, and anything not spent would revert back to fund balance.

Mr. Williams said that reductions were made in Character 04 in the areas of data processing equipment and testing equipment. The decrease in Character 04 is \$53,000, or 24.1%. He said that Character 05 realizes an increase in fleet charges and departmental charges and a decrease in charges from Corporation Counsel, for a net increase of \$664,000, or 10.9%.

Councillor Bradford said that in 2003, the division budgeted \$41,000 for Sub-object 420, Equipment, with \$103,000 budgeted in 2004, yet the actual spent as of June 30, 2004 is only \$1,700. He asked if the division expects to buy a lot of equipment before the end of the year to use up this budgeted amount. Mr. Williams said that this money is for testing equipment, and he believes this is a timing issue as to when that equipment will be purchased. John Chavez, administrator of environmental services, said that they still plan to purchase two additional water quality monitors, as well as additional equipment and buildings for the Tox-drop program (some of that cost will be grant-funded). He said that a new roof for his building is also coming out of Character 04. Councillor Bradford asked if the City owns this building. Mr. Chavez said that they do.

Councillor Mansfield asked in light of fleet charges, what is the policy with regards to take-home cars and City-owned vehicles. Ms. Lawrence said that the bulk of fuel usage for DPW is for street crews and is more related to snow removal and street repairs than actual take-home vehicles. She said that take-home vehicles are for work use only and do not have the same guidelines as public safety cars. They are restricted solely to professional use.

Chairman Conley thanked Mr. Menon and Mr. Williams for their presentation and stated that they do a very good job and he appreciates all their hard work.

Operations/Solid Waste/Maintenance Services (City Budget Book, pg. 172)

Patrick Carroll, Deputy Director, said that the Operations Division has 340 AFSCME employees and 78 bi-weekly personnel in their four sections of Solid Waste, Water Management Services, Maintenance Services, and Special Events. He introduced Shital Patel, finance manager for the division, and Steve Quick, president of Local 725, AFSCME Union. He introduced other key personnel in attendance. Mr. Carroll said that last year's budget was reduced without affecting services; however, this year, the reductions in the budget run the risk of affecting services. He said that the new customer relationship software management program in the Mayor's Action Center has really increased the efficiency in addressing citizens' requests and complaints. He explained that Maintenance Services' responsibilities include streets, signals, maintenance, snow operations, buildings and grounds, downtown Indy crew, Indy Alley crew, and Greenways maintenance.

Councillor Bradford asked if even though DPW is responsible for Greenways maintenance, does the cost actually come out of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Carroll said that there is a memorandum agreement for \$425,000 that covers the salaries for those workers. Councillor Bradford said that these workers do a great job.

Mr. Carroll said that the Special Events section covers special events like the Black Expo, Indy 500 Activities, St. Patrick's Day parade, Circle City Classic, and Sky Concert, as well as Emergency Support Planning and Neighborhood Services. He said

that they support many special events with behind-the-scenes efforts, set-up, and clean-up.

Councillor Mansfield asked why the City is responsible for set-up and clean-up of special events, and why the event coordinators do not pay for that service. Mr. Carroll said that the City helps to set up barricades before some events and cleans up the rights-of-way before and after special events. Councillor Mansfield asked if by clean-up, Mr. Carroll means debris. Mr. Carroll said that this is correct. After an event, they will pick up their barricades, and then clean up any debris left in the streets. Councillor Bradford said that these workers are very helpful and help to line up metal fencing at the Broad Ripple Annual Go-Kart Race to protect sidewalks, and then clean up the streets and lay out hay bales. He said that this staff does a wonderful job, and they are much appreciated. Chairman Conley said that such events like this provide quite a bit of economic revenue to the City, and it is therefore somewhat of a trade-off. Councillor Bradford said that this is correct, and the event he is speaking of is a non-profit event that benefits Huntington's Disease. Councillor Mansfield said that she would have thought that those planning these events would recruit volunteers for clean-up and set-up so that the City does not bear the burden and cost of doing this. Chairman Conley said that these events provide so many benefits to the City and bring so many dollars into the City, that the cost is very minimal. Councillor Mansfield said that she understands that, but she views this as something for which the event planners should have responsibility.

Councillor Speedy asked what type of process is involved to see which responsibilities can be shifted onto event planners. Mr. Carroll said that there is a one-stop shop in the Controller's Office and they look at all services needed, such as what support should be provided in terms of public safety, public works, parks, etc. He said that there are many requests for City support during these activities. Councillor Speedy asked if some of these events then assume more responsibility than others. Ms. Lawrence said that this is correct. She added that DPW mostly is responsible for taking care of their infrastructure, making sure the streets are clean and presentable before and after the event, not only for the good of the event, but simply for the good of traffic flow and public safety. Councillor Mahern said that DPW's clean-up efforts also aid in keeping some of this trash and debris from getting into and contaminating the water supply. Mr. Carroll said that this is correct, and there is not a lot of turnaround time between these events and normal work traffic.

Mr. Carroll said that the division works daily on potholes, traffic signals, parking meters, and signs. The division also spends a considerable amount of time dealing with weather-related situations, such as snow, flooding, and tornadoes. He said that this last year was one of the worst pothole seasons in a decade, and as of today there are only approximately 43 open pothole complaints, even though over 5,655 requests have come in year-to-date. Chairman Conley said that the division does a fantastic job and addresses these problems in a very efficient manner.

Councillor Mahern said that he notices that there seems to be more potholes in the old City limits and asked if this is due to old infrastructure and if technology is better in the new paving of streets. Mr. Carroll said that it is a combination of the older infrastructure, a heavier and more concentrated volume of traffic, and the material used.

Mr. Carroll reviewed some accomplishments over the last year, including tornado clean-up, weed clean-up, snow removal, and maintenance improvement programs.

Councillor Bradford said that on the north side of the canal there seems to be a lot of weeds under the bridges, and he asked if there is any process for cleaning weeds out from under the bridges. Mr. Carroll said that there is not really any plan or specific process in place, and these are usually cleaned up on a complaint basis. Councillor Bradford asked if an "adopt-a-bridge" program could be started. He said that a lot of money has been spent re-doing some of these bridges, but then the weeds cause them to crack and separate. Mr. Carroll said that there is a weed-spraying program, but he is not sure bridges are covered. He said that he will look into the possibilities for bridge maintenance. He said that they can also work with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and the Adopt-A-Median program to see what can be done. Councillor Mahern asked for phone numbers of Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and the Mayor's Action Center where citizens can call for neighborhood clean-up. Chairman Conley and Mr. Carroll relayed these phone numbers.

Councillor Moriarty Adams said that Councillor Bradford could also contact Judge Mark Stoner, who runs a program to contract out community service work crews. Councillor Bradford thanked Councillor Moriarty Adams for this suggestion.

Mr. Carroll reviewed the major snow removal, solid waste, and water management accomplishments for 2004.

Councillor Bradford asked if the City is responsible for solid waste clean-up in the White River, or if the State is responsible for this. Mr. Carroll said that it is a combination of both the City and State who are responsible. Councillor Bradford said that there has been a dumpster for the past two years underneath the College Bridge in the White River and he has no idea how it got there or how to get it out. He asked if the solid waste division would be the people to call in a situation like this. Mr. Carroll said that a call to the Mayor's Action Center would be referred to his division.

Councillor Mansfield said that on her latest few water bills, there was a sewer summer adjustment credit. She said that given the amount of rain there has been, she was surprised to see this credit, and she is not really sure what it is. Mr. Carroll said that he would imagine this is based on actual usage, but he will look into it.

Mr. Carroll outlined some of the goals for 2005, including compliance with NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) standards to reduce sanitary sewer

overflows and combined sewer overflows. He said they continue to focus on neighborhood clean-up and they have already placed 8,000 96-gallon carts to replace the 300-gallon carts. There are still about 800 300-gallon carts to be replaced with 2,500 96-gallon carts. He said that they hope to get these carts placed before the end of the year, and this is an outreach to all solid waste customers.

Councillor Mansfield said that she has had some constituents call her with concerns about these 96-gallon bins in their neighborhoods. She said that elderly individuals have trouble dealing with them, because they are too big. Also, in picking them up, some of the truck equipment has affected trees in the area because they extend their arms out and over. Mr. Carroll said that the equipment can collect the bins from the rear instead of the side and not extend their arms to hit the trees. He added that staff would be happy to meet with neighbors to work out these issues.

Councillor Moriarty Adams said that she is very pleased with the 96-gallon totes, which have been placed all over her former district. She said that there was excessive illegal dumping and these bins have been a godsend to that area. She said that she would highly recommend the bins. She also stated that the staff worked with the neighbors and helped them work together in resolving issues. She said that she would be happy to talk to any constituents or neighborhood groups who have concerns about the bins. Councillor Mansfield said that her district does not have illegal dumping issues, but the concerns she has heard are that the bins are too large and too difficult for the elderly to easily manage to get them to the curb. Councillor Moriarty Adams said that she has worked with the neighbors to get them to cooperate and help each other. Mr. Carroll agreed, and said that there was some initial resistance to the larger bins, but most citizens have now accepted them.

Councillor Mahern asked about the width of the bins and if they easily fit through gates. Mr. Carroll said that the bins are 34 inches wide, and most standard gates are 36 inches wide.

Shital Patel, finance manager for the Operations Division, said that the Operations Division represents 75% of the total department budget. The proposed budget for 2005 of \$113.3 million represents a .4% increase over the 2004 budget. She said that Character 01 will decrease by 1%, Character 02 by .1%, Character 04 by 2.3%, while Character 03 shows a 1.3% increase. She said that the increase is primarily due to contractual obligations. She said that the full-time equivalent (FTE) positions show a change, because one position was transferred to the Policy and Planning Division; therefore, this transfer will have a zero net effect on FTEs for the department.

Councillor Mahern referred to Sub-object 300, Professional Services, and asked why the year-to-date is so much less than what is budgeted. Ms. Patel said that they pay for drug testing for employees, and get the bills later, so part of this is a timing issue. She added that \$35,000 is included for auditing purposes if needed. If not needed, this money would revert back to the fund balance. Councillor Mahern asked about Sub-

object 321, Waste Collection and Disposal, and asked if, based on actual expenditures year-to-date, the division can actually stay within the budget. Ms. Patel said that this money is fully encumbered for the whole year, and they will be able to remain within the budget.

Councillor Mahern asked about Sub-object 341, Advertising, and asked why the budgeted number is so high compared with actual expenditures. Ms. Patel said that they will not spend the full budget, and that they control this number and watch it closely. Councillor Bradford said that this is a lot of padding, considering there is \$35,000 budgeted, but less than \$200 being spent. Mr. Carroll said that they will take note of this and look into it.

Councillor Mahern referred to Sub-object 353, Utilities, and asked if these are also encumbrances. Ms. Patel said that they are. Councillor Mahern asked why Sub-object 362, Building Maintenance and Repair, is so far over budget. Ms. Patel said that this is due to some roof, structural, and plumbing repairs needed to the building because of weather-related damage. Councillor Mahern asked about Sub-object 303, Consulting Services, and said that they have already had actual expenditures as of June that are over the proposed budget for next year. Ms. Patel said that this is due to NPDES permits which were required.

Councillors Moriarty Adams and Mahern said that the Operations Division does a great job and they thanked them for the work they do. Chairman Conley thanked Mr. Carroll and Ms. Patel for their presentation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Bob Cockrum said that he has served on the IMAGIS (Indianapolis Metropolitan Area Geographical Information System) board for some time and their operating budget is based on a contractual agreement, which runs through 2005. He said that the City has decided not to live up to that contractual agreement in the 2005 budget, and he would like to meet with someone to discuss this matter. He said that with only a \$300,000 budget, the City's intention to cut \$125,000 of that will put the program in jeopardy. Mr. Garrard said that he will do some research and then set up a meeting with Councillor Cockrum to discuss the matter.

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lonnell Conley, Chairman

LC/ag